

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the Title (as it appears in the published priority PCT application) to read:

REINFORCEMENT ~~MESH~~ GRID FOR BITUMINOUS LAYERS

Please delete the word "Description" on page 1, line 2.

Please insert the following heading on page 1, above line 3: --FIELD OF THE INVENTION--

Please insert the following heading on page 1, above line 5: --BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION --

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 2, line 22 as follows:

A considerable disadvantage of the known reinforcement grids is their non-steady stress-strain behavior. When tensile stresses are applied, polyester initially has a force uptake which increases approximately in proportion to the strain but then essentially stagnates after a relative strain of 1% to 2%. ~~Figure 4~~ Figure 5 schematically shows a stress-strain diagram of a typical polyester material. In the range between 2% and 5% strain of the polyester material, no significant increase in stress in the polyester material is observed and thus there is no significant increase in the force uptake. A significant increase in stress occurs again only above approximately 5% of the material strain. It should be noted here that according to the stress-strain curve for bitumen shown with a dashed line in ~~Figure 4~~ Figure 5, the maximum stress uptake and thus the ductile yield value for bitumen occur at almost 5%. The reinforcement effect of a polyester grid therefore begins essentially only when the bitumen material has already reached the maximum of its extensibility and begins to crack. Cracks in the bitumen layer may cause permanent damage to the road surface.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 3, line 8, as follows:

As an alternative, a reinforcement grid of fiberglass or fiberglass-reinforced plastic has been proposed in the past. Although fiberglass has a considerably higher force uptake capacity, it has almost no extensibility and is brittle. A stress-strain diagram for fiberglass is shown schematically in ~~Figure 5~~ Figure 6, a dashed line showing the stress-strain curve for a bituminous material.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 3, line 22, as follows:

~~The object of the present invention is~~ Accordingly, it is desirable to create a reinforcement grid capable of absorbing high forces applied to a bituminous layer and having good elastic deformability.

Please insert the following heading on page 3, above line 4: --SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION--.

Please amend the following paragraph beginning on page 3, line 24, as follows:

~~This object is achieved according~~ According to one aspect of the present invention, a reinforcement grid capable of absorbing high forces and having good elastic deformability is provided ~~provides a~~ by the utilization of ~~fact that the~~ strands of synthetic material ~~have~~ having a ductile yield between 3% and 8%.

Please insert the following heading on page 4, above line 1: --BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS--

Please insert the following heading on page 4, above line 14: --DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF VARIOUS EMBODIMENTS--

Please insert the following paragraph beginning on page 8, line 16:

Other embodiments of the invention will be apparent to those skilled in the art from a consideration of the specification or practice of the invention disclosed herein. It is intended that the specification and examples be considered as exemplary only, with the true scope and spirit of the invention being indicated by the following claims.

Please delete page 9 in its entirety.